

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00  
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSM-03 MCT-01 IO-13 CCO-00  
AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-12 HA-05 FDRE-00  
AGRE-00 COME-00 /100 W  
-----004402 271402Z /43

O R 271305Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7281  
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER  
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM  
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG  
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER  
COMSIXTHFLT  
CTF SIX ZERO  
CTF SIX ONE  
CTF SIX TWO  
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO  
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA  
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN  
DIA WASHDC  
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER  
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 1644

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS PINT MILI ASEC LE  
SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION, MARCH 27, 1200 HOURS LOCAL

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE CEASEFIRE CONTINUES TO HOLD  
GENERALLY, ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN SOME REPORTS OF FIRING  
AND ARTILLERY EXCHANGES. ABOUT 850 UNIFIL TROOPS  
HAVE ARRIVED IN LEBANON. DAMASCUS RADIO ON MARCH 26  
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SEEMED TO INDICATE SARG MIGHT BE BACKTRACKING ON ITS  
COMMITMENT (VIA ADF COMMUNIQUE) NOT TO ALLOW AID TO  
PALESTINIANS FROM ABROAD. BEIRUT PRESS HAS REPORTED  
PRESIDENT SADAT'S CHARGE OF AN ISRAELI-SYRIAN-NLP  
AGREEMENT TO DEFEND CHRISTIANS IN SOUTH LEBANON. THE  
MARONITE PATRIARCH HAS WARNED THAT LEBANON MUST MOVE  
TOWARDS NATIONAL RECONCILIATION, OR OTHERWISE CHOOSE

PARTITION. THE FOURTH SHIPMENT OF U.S. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ARRIVED BY PLANE IN BEIRUT ON MARCH 25. ON MARCH 23 PRIME MINISTER AL-HOSS AND AMBASSADOR PARKER SIGNED A \$6 MILLION PL 480, TITLE I, AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. MILITARY SITUATION.

A. THE CEASEFIRE CONTINUES TO HOLD GENERALLY, ALTHOUGH PALESTINIANS ROCKETED NORTHERN GALILEE ON MARCH 26. THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTED INCIDENTS OF CHRISTIAN HARASSMENT OF UNIFIL SINCE MARCH 24. BACHIR GEMAYEL TOLD EMBOFF ON MARCH 25 THAT ISRAEL HAD BEEN PARADING ONE "FRANCIS RIZK" NOT "CLOVIS RIZK" (REPORTED BEIRUT 1625) AS PHALANGE LEADER IN SOUTH. BACHIR SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAD NEVER HEARD OF FRANCIS RIZK EITHER, AND THAT THE LATTER WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE PHALANGE PARTY.

B. ACCORDING TO DATT SOURCE, PALESTINIANS AT BEAUFORT CASTLE FIRED AT SOME SWEDISH UNIFIL TROOPS NEAR QULAYAH ON MARCH 25. THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES, HOWEVER. NABATIYAH WAS SHELLED BY 17 ROUNDS OF 155 MM ARTILLERY ON MARCH 26, WHERE THE PALESTINIANS ARE REINFORCING THEIR POSITIONS, THE SAME SOURCE REPORTS.

C. THE ISRAELIS HAVE CHARGED THAT SOME 200 SYRIAN  
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SOLDIERS HAVE MOVED SOUTH TO HASBIYAH. ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE DATT SOURCE, HOWEVER, NO REGULAR SYRIAN UNIT HAS MOVED TO THE AREA, ALTHOUGH SAIQA UNITS MOVED TO MIMAS, ABOUT THREE KILOMETERS NORTH OF HASBIYAH.

3. UNIFIL DEPLOYMENTS.

ABOUT 850 UNIFIL TROOPS HAVE ARRIVED IN LEBANON, OUT OF A TOTAL OF 4,000. THEY ARE DEPLOYED AS FOLLOWS:

--ABOUT 500 FRENCH TROOPS IN TYRE;

--ABOUT 150 SWEDISH TROOPS AT MARJAYUN;

--ABOUT 200 IRANIAN TROOPS NEAR THE QA'QA'IYAT BRIDGE.

IN ADDITION, THE GOL HAS SENT A SMALL ARMY CONTINGENT TO NAKOURA TO CONDUCT LIAISON WITH UNIFIL AND ISRAELIS THERE AND TO STUDY THE REINTEGRATION OF HADDAD'S FORCES INTO THE LEBANESE ARMY. THE FRENCH UNIFIL FORCE HAS RECEIVED TWO ALOUETTE-3 HELICOPTERS WHICH WILL BE USED TO

TRANSPORT OFFICERS TO AND FROM NAKOURA. THE GOL HAS ALSO SENT A LAF PLATOON TO TAKE OVER THE NABATIYAH CASERNE, ACCORDING TO DATT SOURCES.

4. SYRIANS BACKTRACKING?

DAMASCUS RADIO ON MARCH 26 QUOTED "A RESPONSIBLE SYRIAN SOURCE" AS SAYING THAT THE SARG HAD NO KNOWLEDGE THAT THE ADF HAD DECIDED TO PREVENT AID FROM REACHING THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE (SEE DAMASCUS 1689). THE BROADCAST SAID, "THIS IS FOR THE LEBANESE PRESIDENT TO DECIDE AND NOT FOR THE ADF. . . . AS FOR SYRIA, IT WILL CONTINUE ALLOWING EVERY KIND OF AID, BE IT HUMANITARIAN OR MILITARY, WHICH MIGHT COME TO THE RESISTANCE." CONFIDENTIAL

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THE DAMASCUS RADIO BROADCAST SEEMS TO CONTRADICT THE MARCH 24 ADF COMMUNIQUE FORBIDDING THE ENTRY OF ANY FURTHER MILITARY PERSONNEL OR EQUIPMENT INTO LEBANON (SEE BEIRUT 1631). IF SYRIA HAS REVERSED ITS POLICY, THIS COULD HAVE SERIOUS EFFECTS ON THE MAINTENANCE OF THE CURRENT CEASEFIRE.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 1644

5. SADAT CHARGES AND EGYPTIAN AID.

A. THE BEIRUT PRESS HAS REPORTED PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT'S CHARGE IN THE MAGAZINE OCTOBER ON MARCH 26 THAT U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE HAD TOLD SADAT OF AN AGREEMENT TO GUARANTEE "THE DEFENSE OF THE MARONITES AND CERTAIN MUSLIMS IN SOUTH LEBANON." LOCAL PRESS ADDED THAT SADAT HAD SPECIFIED THAT BEGIN, AN "ARAB CONFIDENTIAL

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LEADER AND A LEBANESE POLITICIAN" HAD AGREED TO THIS GUARANTEE, BUT LOCAL NEWSPAPERS, UNLIKE SADAT, HAVE NOT IDENTIFIED THEM BY NAME AS SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD AND NLP LEADER CAMILLE CHAMOUN.

B. ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY IKE ON MARCH 23 CARRIED AP STORY SAYING EGYPT WAS SENDING DOCTORS AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO THE PLO IN LEBANON. SADAT WAS CITED AS PERSONALLY ORDERING THIS AID.

6. EASTER MESSAGE TO MARONITE PATRIARCH.

THE MARONITE PATRIARCH KHORAICHE ISSUED HIS ANNUAL EASTER MESSAGE ON MARCH 25. HE APPEALED FOR NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AND WARNED THAT PARTITION MIGHT BE NECESSARY OTHERWISE. HE SAID: "IT IS TIME TO DECIDE TO HAVE EITHER NATIONAL ENTENTE ACCORDING TO INVIOABLE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES, AND THAT IS OUR MOST CHERISHED DESIRE, OR INSTEAD - WHAT WE LOATH THE MOST AND REJECT VEHEMENTLY - A PARTITION WHICH GUARANTEES TO THIS MARTYRED PEOPLE SOME SECURITY FOR ITS FUTURE DAYS."

7. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.

THE FOURTH SHIPMENT OF U.S. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

ARRIVED BY PLANE IN BEIRUT ON MARCH 25. COMMODITIES  
DELIVERED SO FAR TOTAL 300,000 LBS. AND INCLUDE ABOUT  
1850 TENTS, AS WELL AS 40,000 BLANKETS, MEDICINES AND  
OTHER MATERIALS. THE FIRST SHIPMENT ARRIVED ON MARCH  
23.

8. OTHER U.S. AID.  
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A NUMBER OF AGREEMENTS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN SIGNED  
AS PART OF OUR REGULAR AID PROGRAM. ON MARCH 15 A  
GRANT FOR \$100,000 WAS SIGNED BY MOHAMED ATALLAH,  
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENT AND RECONSTRUCTION,  
AND THOMAS IRVIN, U.S. AID REPRESENTATIVE IN LEBANON,  
PROVIDING ASSISTANCE FOR THE CONDUCT OF A ONE-YEAR  
COURSE TO TRAIN PROSTHETIC AND ORTHOTIC TECHNICIANS.  
ON MARCH 22 A GRANT AGREEMENT FOR \$1.5 MILLION WAS  
SIGNED BY AMBASSADOR PARKER AND DR. ATALLAH. UNDER  
THIS AGREEMENT, THE UNITED STATES WILL FINANCE EQUIPMENT  
AND OTHER COMMODITIES REQUIRED TO RE-EQUIPM THE NATIONAL  
PEDOLOGICAL INSTITUTE FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION AT  
DEKWANEH. ON MARCH 23 PRIME MINISTER SALIM AL-HOSS  
AND AMBASSADOR PARKER SIGNED A PL-480, TITLE I, FOOD  
AGREEMENT, UNDER WHICH THE UNITED STATES WILL FINANCE  
THE SALE OF \$6 MILLION WORTH OF WHEAT AND WHEAT FLOUR  
TO THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON.  
PARKER

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## Message Attributes

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